

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are in the application as filed. Claims 1-3 are rejected. Claims 4-9 are objected to based upon a multiple dependency in Claim 4 that was dependent upon multiple dependent claim 3.

Claim 3 has been amended to remove the multiple dependency. New Claims 10 - 13 have been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 1-9 are in the application as filed. Claim 1 was rejected as obvious over Topfer et al. Topfer is cited as teaching a composition for forming magnetic thick film comprising magnetic particles of NdFeB dispersed in an organic medium containing a polymer epoxy resin and solvent (p. 3 "Screen Printing")

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over a Topfer et al. and a Benz et al. article. The Examiner asserts that Topfer teaches the composition of the instant invention but is silent as to the additives of metal used with NdFeB magnetic material. The Examiner argues that it would be within the purview of one of ordinary skill to have recognized that additives of any metal that is known to be used with NdFeB magnetic materials could be employed in the composition of Topfer with a reasonable expectation of success.

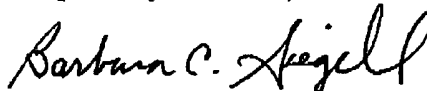
Cobalt and Chromium are cited as taught by Benz. The Examiner asserts that absent a teaching of the criticality of the additive materials, there is no distinction over the art. In this regard, please note the section of the present application that is highlighted below.

Applicant respectfully disagrees that the invention is obvious. While the cited references disclose that the magnetic powder may be selected from powders in the Al-Ni-Co system, alkaline earth system, the Sm-Co system, and the Nd-Fe-B system, the magnetic particles taught in the cited references differ from the magnetic particles of the present invention. Additionally, the magnetic field used to magnetize the particles of the cited references has been applied in a particular direction/orientation to the particles. In the present invention, the magnetic Nd-Fe-B or Neo powders used in the film composition "...as printed can be isotropic in nature such that the direction of a subsequently applied magnetic field can be done in any direction versus the shape and thickness of the film. This property of magnetic isotropy is aided when the Neo powders are specifically used." (p. 9, ln. 35-p. 10, ln. 1). Furthermore, the Ne-Fe-B powders of the present invention may be formed by a dry-milling or atomization process that gives rise to a polymer thick film as printed which is isotropic in nature (Examples 1 and 2).

In view of the above discussion, allowance of Claims 1-9, as amended, and new Claim 10-13 is respectfully solicited.

Should anything further be required to advance allowance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' attorney. Should there be any fee required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,



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